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COMMENT OF THE DAY

France's Dilemma

THE most significant feature about the recent Franco-American communiqué on US aid to the French Union forces in Indo-China was the replacement of the tentative official doctrine, that the expeditionary force must be reduced rather than increased, by the new one, that in order that the force should be reduced some day without defeat it must be and was being increased now. The statement that the increase to the French forces in Indo-China "will not cause prejudice of a fundamental or permanent character to the plans and programmes of the French Government concerning its forces in NATO" is, in plain grammar, an admission that some damage will be done. It had been only too easily assumed among French advocates of negotiations in Indo-China, that it was possible to negotiate without acknowledging defeat. M. Laniel in a recent speech propounded the more reasonable view that to negotiate without defeat it was necessary to improve France's military position. It is clear that on both sides every effort is being made to make the campaign now in progress a turning point. If France and the Associated States have, with American backing, an immense advantage in material and men over the Vietnamese they have, of course, the disadvantage that so big a proportion of the French people feels little or no interest in the fighting in Indo-China. It is certainly much less a national cause to France than the Korean war has been to the United States. It has remained a colonial war in the sense that it is accepted so long as it does not become a major element on the political horizon.

IN fact, however, that is what it has been increasingly becoming in the last twelve months—especially since M. Mendès-France expressed so many Frenchmen's wishes by publicly putting negotiations forward as part of his official Government programme last June. This apart, the development of the Indo-China war will certainly have an important effect on the evolution of Franco-American relations and of French opinion on the European Defence Community. With regard to the first there is the unhappy feeling that France has obtained the money from America in return for a promise to send out more troops. This is naturally being exploited to the full by the Communists. As to the European Defence Community, emphasis is given to the announcement that two regiments, one Algerian and one Moroccan are leaving Germany for the Far East. It was the present French Finance Minister who insisted a year ago at the Radical congress that the one powerful objection to ratification of the EDC, which he favoured in principle, was that France could not play her part in Indo-China and the Rhine, and could not be both an Asiatic Power and counter-balance Germany in Europe. The prospects of the European Defence Community have certainly been improving in France recently, though they are still uncertain, and the disclosure that the French Expeditionary Corps in Indo-China is being reinforced must inevitably cause some embarrassment to the French advocates of the EDC.

TRIESTE: SOVIET PROTEST TO BRITAIN & US

Alleged Infringement Of Peace Treaty DECISION TO SPLIT FREE TERRITORY CRITICISED

Moscow, Oct. 12. Russia accused Britain and the United States today of infringing the Italian peace treaty by ceding Trieste Zone A to Italian administration, and said the two Western Governments must bear "all responsibility for the consequences."

In notes delivered to the British and American Embassies here, the Soviet Foreign Ministry declared that last week's decision to give the Italians the administration of Zone A was a threat to the peace and security of the region and would "inevitably lead to a heightening of friction in relations among states primarily between the countries bordering the Free Territory of Trieste."

The Soviet Government said the division of the Free Territory could only "provoke new difficulties" in that area of Europe.

The Soviet note, which was published in Pravda and Izvestia, was the first Soviet comment on the Western decision on Trieste but did not contain any new proposals for the solution of the long-standing problem.

The note did not mention Yugoslav protests about the Western move, the four-page document containing no reference to Yugoslavia.

The note said, "This act of the Government of the United States and Great Britain represents a grave violation of the conditions of the peace treaty with Italy in relation to the creation of the Free Territory of Trieste."

The Soviet note recalled that the Italian peace treaty envisaged the creation of a Free Territory which should be neutral and demilitarised and provided that the United Nations Security Council should appoint a Governor.

The Soviet note said that this should have been followed by the formation of a provisional Governmental council, the creation of a constituent assembly and the grant of a constitution.

The Soviet note said "the facts show that the new violation by the Governments of the United States and Great Britain of the peace treaty with Italy inevitably leads to a heightening of friction in relations among states, first of all between the countries bordering on the Free Territory of Trieste, and creating a threat to the peace and security of this region."

"In connection with the above, the Soviet Government considers it necessary to declare that all responsible for the consequences of this grave violation of the peace treaty with Italy rests on the Governments of the United States and Great Britain."

SOVIET COMPLAINT

The Soviet note complained that the decision to give the Free Territory of Trieste had not been carried out.

"As a consequence of which the Government of the United States, as well as the Government of Britain, did not fulfil the obligations which they assumed relating to the creation of the Free Territory of Trieste," it said.

The United States and Britain turned down all candidates for the post of Governor, which were proposed in the Security Council, in spite of the absence of any basis, the note declared.

The two Western Governments declined to agree on the appointment of a Governor from any of the candidates which they themselves put forward for the Security Council.

The Soviet note said: "Violation by the United States and Great Britain of the obligations they undertook is shown also in that Trieste has been transformed into an illegal military and naval base, which plays an important role in the military plans for the aggressive North Atlantic bloc."

The Soviet Union rejected the British and American claim that it appeared impossible to achieve agreement with other signatories of the Italian peace treaty with regard to the creation of a permanent regime for Trieste, as envisaged in the treaty.

The Soviet note said facts showed that the United States and Britain "avoided and still avoid the fulfilment of conditions of the peace treaty with

Italy in relation to the creation of the Free Territory of Trieste."

The note declared: "The Soviet Government, in its notes of November 17, 1951, and June 24, 1952, already called to the attention of the Governments of the United States and Great Britain that the division of the Free Territory of Trieste was incompatible with the task of supporting peace and security, and can but provoke new difficulties in that area of Europe."

"In the aforementioned notes it was also noted that the division of this territory contradicts the interests of its population, depriving them of the possibility of exercising the Democratic rights envisaged in the permanent statute of the Free Territory of Trieste."—Reuter.

"REALLY GRAVE"

Washington, Oct. 12. The Yugoslav Foreign Minister, Mr. Koca Popovic, today described the Trieste situation as "really grave," but said that he hoped it could be improved without the use of armed force.

Mr. Popovic made this statement after a short conference with the United States Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles.

He said that the conference would be resumed tomorrow.

Mr. Popovic said "my conversation with Mr. Dulles was fruitful. I emphasised to him that the situation was really grave but I have the firm hope that with our common efforts we can improve the situation."

Asked whether it was possible to improve the situation without the use of armed force, Mr. Popovic replied he hoped that was possible.

Mr. Popovic said that he had not received the text of the note which the Yugoslav Government handed to United States, British and Italian Ambassadors in Belgrade today. He said he expected to have the note later today at the Yugoslav Embassy here.

A PROPOSAL

Reports from Belgrade today said that the note proposed a conference of the United States, Britain, Italy and Yugoslavia "to eliminate the threat to peace which could arise out of the present situation."

After the meeting, a State Department spokesman, Mr. Henry Suydam, said that Mr. Dulles and Mr. Popovic had discussed the Trieste question and that Mr. Dulles had been obliged to break off the conversation after half an hour because he had an appointment at the White House.

That was why another meeting was arranged for tomorrow.

The spokesman refused to say anything about a partially completed conversation. He said the latest Yugoslav note had arrived only an hour or so ago and there had not yet been time to examine it.—Reuter.

Legislative Council Crisis

Singapore, Oct. 13. The mass resignation of five Indian Federal legislative Councilors over the weekend may precipitate a big split among Malayan workers and trade unionists.

The representative of Selangor State on the Malayan Trade Union Council's Central Committee, Leo Mok Sang, formally resigned yesterday when he failed to get support on a censure motion he brought against two representatives of the Council, who were among five who resigned in protest against the failure of the Federal Government to nominate an Indian to the Federal Cabinet.

General Sir Gerald Temple, earlier in the month nominated a Chinese as a member for

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DEMONSTRATIONS

Trieste, Oct. 12. Students here today staged the first pro-Italian demonstration in this city since the Allied decision to hand zone "A" to Italy was announced last week.

They marched to the city centre, waving red, white and green Italian flags and singing patriotic songs.

At the city's great San Giusto Cathedral, a crowd of an Italian flag and then went noisily home.

Trieste was otherwise calm.

Some twenty refugees are trickling into zone "A" each day, according to the local Committee for the Liberation of Istria, which is looking after them.

At the Yugoslav Mission in Trieste, a spokesman told correspondents who applied for permits to enter zone "B" that there is much tension along the zonal borders.

All was quiet on the frontier posts tonight.—Reuter.

PROTECTION PROMISE

Washington, Oct. 12. The Yugoslav Government has promised to protect American citizens in Yugoslavia who might be attacked in demonstrations against the West's decision on Trieste, the State Department's spokesman, Mr. Lincoln White, said today.

He said the United States expected the Yugoslav Government (Contd. on Back Page, Col. 3)

Ex-PoW Dies On Way Home

London, Oct. 12. Eagerly awaiting the return of her husband, who had been a prisoner of war in Korea, for two and a half years, Mrs. Elizabeth Newby, 28, of Wayenshaw Road, Durham, tonight received a telegram from the War Office stating that her husband, Lance-Corporal Kenneth Newby, 32, had died while returning home.—France-Press.

Situation In Br Guiana Worsens

Georgetown, Oct. 12. The internal situation in British Guiana today took a turn for the worse when attacks on an overseer, an arson attempt and strikes were reported.

The British Guiana Sugar Producers' Association today confirmed a report that sugar cane cutters had attacked a European overseer at the Adelphi plantation, north of Georgetown. The overseer escaped.

It was also learned that an attempt was made to set fire to a neighbouring plantation by spreading heavy oil on the ground and lighting it. Only an unexpected change in the wind saved the whole plantation from going up in flames.

Foreign circles in Georgetown express great uneasiness tonight over possible developments within the next few days.

The Negro personnel of two sugar refineries at Port Mourant and Ullihut, a hundred kilometres from Georgetown, have been on strike since this morning. It was officially announced here.

It was thought that the situation might deteriorate further tomorrow.

The British Guiana Sugar Producers' Association today issued a communiqué revealing a deteriorating situation with about 5,500 sugar workers on strike in Demerara and Berbice.—France-Press.

13 "Spies" To Die

London, Oct. 12. Thirteen of 18 people accused at Bucharest of acting as "American spies" were sentenced to death today. Aggression, the official Rumanian news agency, reported.

The military court which tried them announced that the property of the 13 would be confiscated.

The remaining three were sentenced to prison terms: one to 25 years hard labour, one to 20 years in prison, and the third to three years imprisonment.

The sixteen appeared before the military court charged with espionage, terrorism and "subversive work."

They were alleged to have been dropped by parachute over Rumanian territory.

The indictment said they had been acquired by the American intelligence service with the co-operation of the French and Greek intelligence services.

It said they were all "Fascists or ex-convicts who had fled Rumania."

Before being dropped from planes over Rumanian territory the indictment added they had been trained in special spy schools and supplied with radio equipment, false identity papers, poison, codes and money.—Reuter.

Greek Bases For American Forces

Athens, Oct. 12. Greece and the United States have signed an agreement allowing American forces to use Greek air and naval bases, the Prime Minister, Marshal Alexandros Papagos, announced tonight.

The agreement was reached on the basis of Article 3 of the NATO's treaty terms, a joint Greek-American communiqué said.

The North Atlantic Treaty, signed in Washington on April 4, 1949, provides in Article 3 for the establishment of an integrated force under centralised control and command.

A protocol admitting Greece and Turkey to the Organisation was signed on October 22, 1951. The other 12 members of NATO are Britain, the United States, France, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland, Italy and Portugal.

ATHENS SIGNING

The agreement was signed in Athens tonight by Mr. Cavendish Cannon, the United States Ambassador, and Mr. Stefan Stefanopoulos, the Greek Foreign Minister.

It authorises the United States to use and develop Greek roads and railways for military purposes under the NATO defence scheme.

American forces may be established in Greece, with rights to enter and move about freely both in Greek territory and in Greek waters.

American establishments will have the same facilities as the Greek armed forces.

The agreement operating from today will last as long as the North Atlantic Treaty—until 1969.

The joint communiqué said: "In fulfilment of responsibilities under Article 3 of the North Atlantic Treaty, the Greek and the United States Governments concluded a bilateral agreement authorising the United States to improve and use jointly with the Greek Government certain airfields and naval facilities in Greece."

FACTS DESIGN

"The agreement is designed to strengthen the security of the North Atlantic area as well as to maintain international peace and security by facilitating the integration of Greek defences into NATO's defence system."

"This co-operative effort to improve and strengthen the collective capacity to resist armed aggression reflects the continuing co-operation and close bonds of friendship existing between Greece and the United States."

Marshal Papagos said: "The agreement constitutes the most important step in the new Greece's history. The two countries' cordial relations and common effort to secure peace and democracy have entered a new stage of closer, more permanent co-operation."

"The defence effort in this crucial area is reinforced and NATO's objectives will be attained more positively."

"Unparalleled security conditions are born for Greece from the agreement," he declared.

Mr. Stefanopoulos said secret protocols might be added to the agreement which was of the same shape as those signed between the United States and Britain.

"It nullifies the Air Force superiority of the countries situated north of Greece," he added.

He said Greece would benefit greatly from the large American funds to be spent in Greece. Thousands of Greek workers would be employed.

Mr. Stefanopoulos said United States armed forces were due to arrive in Greece soon.—Reuter.

Envoy Injured

Paris, Oct. 12. The French Ambassador to Thailand, M. Jean Paul Boncour, was injured today in a road accident near Glen on the Loire-Like road, south of here.

M. Boncour was travelling with his wife and neither of them was seriously hurt.

The car was involved in a crash with a vehicle belonging to a mechanic from the nearby town of Monthargis.—France-Press.

Panmunjom Meeting On October 26

Washington, Oct. 12. The United States and its 16 Korean war allies today agreed to meet with the Communist representatives at Panmunjom on October 26.

Agreement was reached on a note which was sent through Swedish channels today to the Communist Governments of China and North Korea.

The text of the note was released by the State Department after the Allied representatives had approved it.

The United States authorised its representatives to:

1. Agree on a time and place for a Korean political conference finally to end the Korea war and
2. Exchange views on the composition of the political conference.

The note did not give the United States representative authorisation to deal with the second question, but only to exchange views on it.

It also limited the exchange of views by saying that this would be to the extent consistent with the basis set forth elsewhere in the United States note.

A paragraph of this note stated that the composition of the United Nations side for the Korean political conference had been laid down in the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

This was the resolution in which the United Nations decided to restrict the conference to those nations which fought in the war with the addition of the Soviet Union if the Communists desired it.

PARAGRAPH 60

The note also pointed out that this decision by the United Nations regarding the composition of the conference was in accordance with paragraph 60 of the armistice agreement which contemplated that the political conference should be restricted to the governments concerned on both sides.

In addition, the note made the point that paragraph 60 of the armistice agreement was drafted initially by the Communist negotiators in the truce talks.

The note to the Communists added "Your spokesman, General Nam Il, insisted that participation be limited to the Governments concerned on both sides since some members of the United Nations had not sent troops to Korea."

"It is not correct, therefore, to say that your side held all along that neutral nations should participate in the conference."

Today's note emphasised that the United States agreement to meet with the Communist representatives at Panmunjom on October 26 should not be considered as any indication that the United Nations considered Panmunjom as a suitable site for the political conference.

State Department officials said that if the Communists agreed to the meeting, the United States representative who has been appointed Ambassador to the Korean political conference, Mr. Arthur Doan, would be prepared to leave on October 22 for Korea.

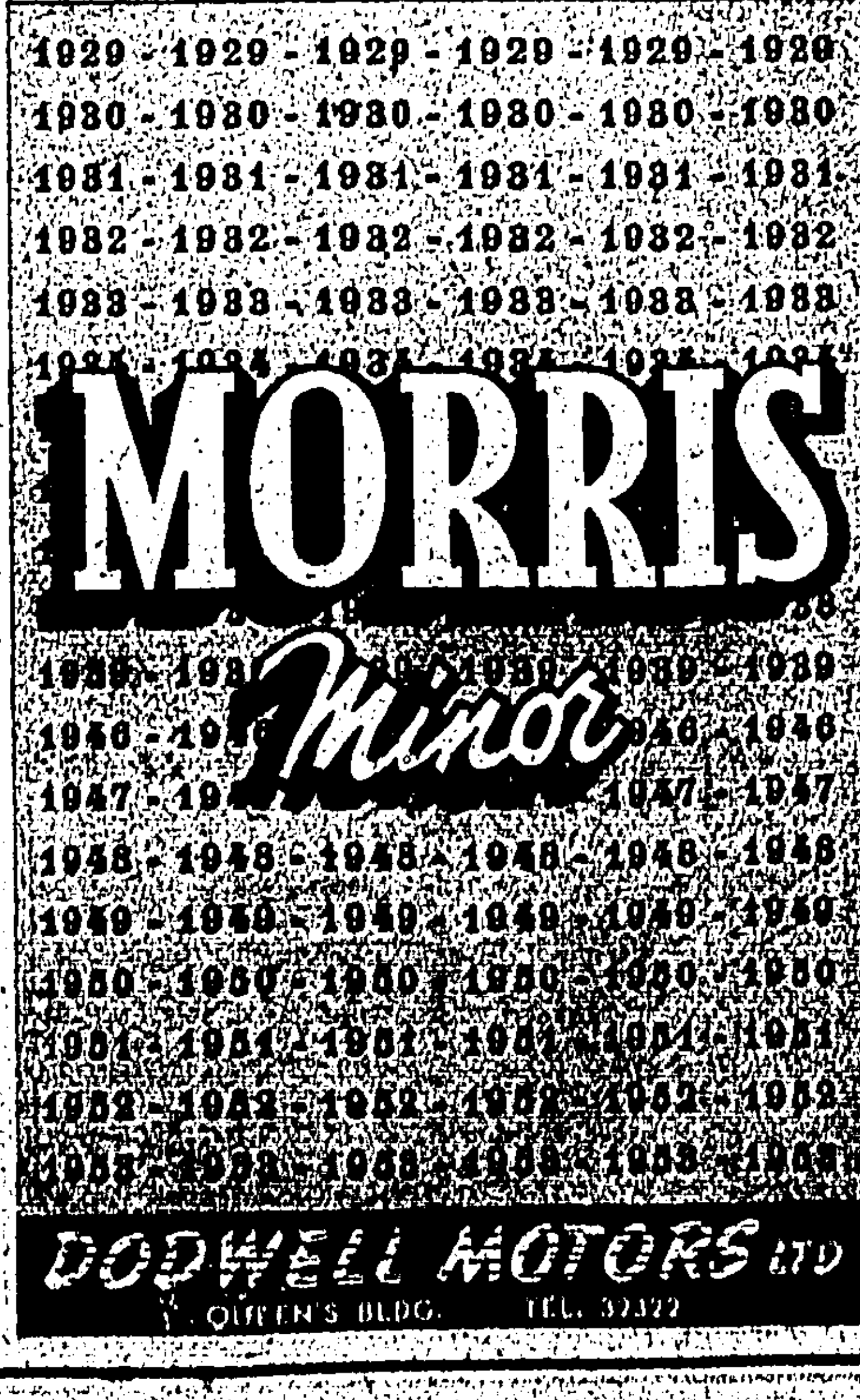
Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, of India, President of the United Nations General Assembly, conferred earlier today with President Eisenhower and the Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles, about the Korean conference.—Reuter.

UN Membership Proposal

New York, Oct. 12. Russia proposed in the Special Political Committee of the General Assembly today that "as a first step towards the solution of the problem of the admission of new members," the United Nations admit Bulgaria, Hungary, Rumania, Finland and Italy to the world organisation.

It was the second Soviet resolution before the Committee.

The first—a "package" proposal—asked the General Assembly to reconsider the applications of Albania, Mongolia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, Finland, Italy, Portugal, Ireland, Jordan, Austria, Ceylon, Nepal and Libya.—Reuter.

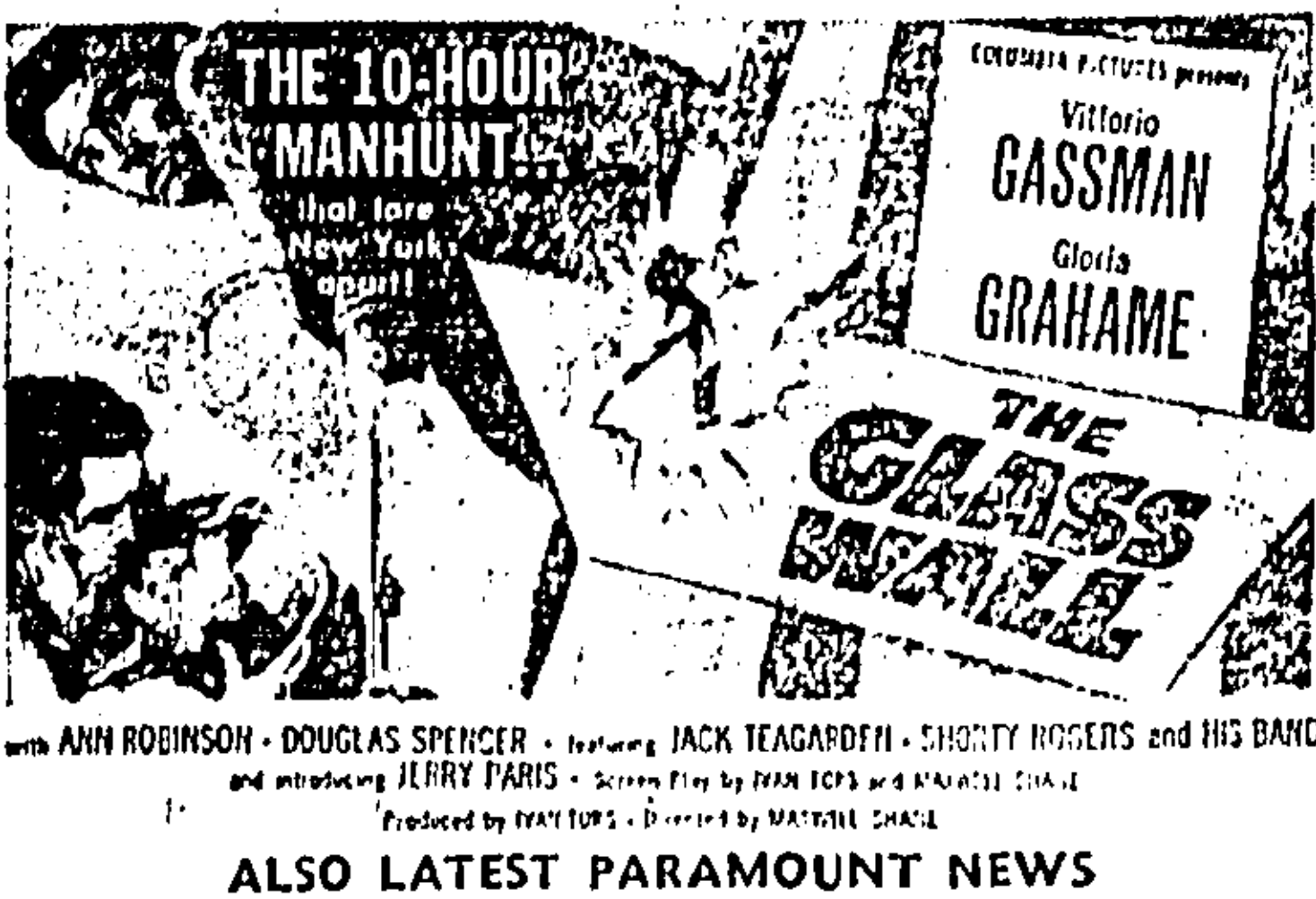


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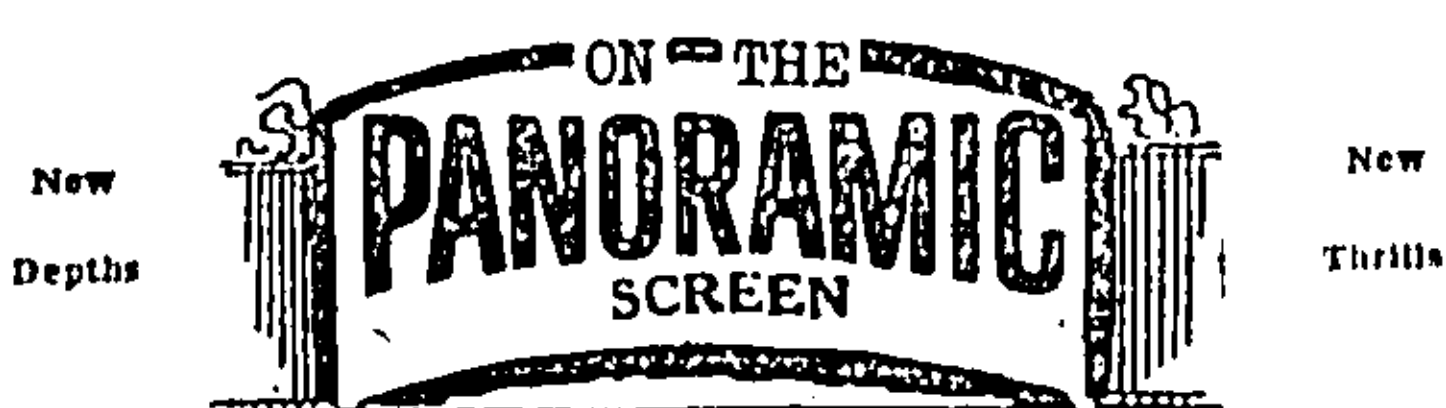


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Late Queen's Embroidery On Display



The last piece of embroidery worked by the late Queen Mary, which has been lent to the first International Handicrafts Exhibition by gracious permission of the Queen, is admired by Pearl Comfort, of Frimley. Queen Mary was over 80, with failing eyesight, when she executed this particular example of a craft in which she had so long excelled.—Express Photo.

"Freezing" Of Patients Has Cut Fatalities By One-Third

Paris, Oct. 12.

A new French medical discovery—"freezing" patients into a long sleep after they have drunk a medical cocktail—has cut battle fatalities in Indo-China by more than one-third.

Some French experts believe that it may revolutionise surgical practice generally. The discovery is called artificial hibernation.

Pioneered by Dr. Henri Laborit and other French surgeons during the past few years, it has now become common medical practice in this country for serious operations. It is also used in freezing serious burns, severe shock and a number of grave diseases. Artificial hibernation uses the principle of an old and well-known natural defence mechanism of the body—the long winter sleep common to certain trees, plants and animals. It combines the use of certain drugs which are non-toxic but which deaden the nervous system with actual refrigeration—putting the patient on ice.

It has been used on patients ranging from infancy to 85 years old. Dr. Laborit first began thinking about the idea after watching patients who were in a state of shock as a result of serious accidents, wounds, burns or infectious diseases. He decided that shock ought to be treated in a diametrically opposite way to the methods used previously.

The usual method has been to stimulate the body's defence reactions, by heating, applying stimulants and administering tonics. Dr. Laborit reasoned that since the organism was using its last reserves of energy, it might be more reasonable to help any body in shock, or about to enter it—as, for example, in an operation—by slowing down all living functions until the body reached a condition bordering upon inertia.

A "COCKTAIL." Working in Paris with research teams at the "Central Laboratory of Physiology" and in the Surgical Department of the Vaugard Hospital, he developed a so-called "hibernation cocktail" which would put the entire automatic nervous system at rest.

Then, by applying cold, he slowed down vital functions, restraining oxygen consumption and organic combustion in the cells. Specially built refrigerators and ice containers were used.

Surgery was only the first and most spectacular success of artificial hibernation, especially when it was used with patients too weak or old to undergo necessary major operations. This is how the system is applied now in France.

A seriously injured man is rushed to a hospital operating theatre suffering from shock. A few years ago everything flying would have been done to warm the body and stimulate the defence reactions. He would have been buried under a pile of blankets, given warm drinks and heart stimulants.

Today, the treatment is just the opposite. The first step is an injection of "medical cocktail", including large quantities of paraldehyde, dipropyl, procaine and vitamins. This is repeated every quarter of an hour.

NO PAIN. Within half an hour of the first "cocktail", the injured man is sleepy and rests quietly on his bed. He no longer feels pain and does not appear to be disturbed. Then refrigeration is applied by placing six or eight ice packs at vital nervous points such as the stomach, heart, armpits, groin and the top of the spine, or at the entire body.

The man's temperature drops to between 33 and 35 degrees Centigrade (91.5 to 95 degrees

Fahrenheit) and is kept there. The surgeon begins to operate. The patient is practically unconscious.

When it is all over, the hibernated patient is put to bed either without coverings or with only a light sheet over him. The room is kept cool, and he "hibernates" for between 48 hours and three days. To prevent trembling or shivering, he gets early "cocktails". In some cases, French patients have hibernated successfully for ten days.

The after-effects are reported to be far better than with the previously used anaesthetics.

French Drive In Tonkin Big Success

Hanoi, Oct. 12.

The French High Command announced tonight that 685 Vietminh troops had been killed, 513 taken prisoner and 1,826 suspects rounded up in an 18-day action south-east of Hanoi to destroy the biggest nest of Vietminh forces in the Red River Delta, in preparation for winter campaigns.

The spokesman said operation "Brochet", which ended yesterday, destroyed the equivalent of two battalions, including a battalion of the crack 42nd regiment.

Arms, ammunition and equipment sufficient for an entire battalion were seized, including 11 radio transmitters.

One hundred and fifty captured French Union troops had been freed.—China Mail Special.

There is no pain or vomiting and the patient is calm or indifferent. The body reacts itself slowly as the cocktails are reduced. Hibernation has been used with patients whose physical resistance is low, such as old people, advanced cancer cases and weakened tubercular cases. Out of a total of 67 "terminal patients", the majority of them suffering from cancer, who underwent major surgical operations last year, Dr. Laborit said, more than two-thirds survived, thanks to artificial hibernation.

IN CHILDBIRTH

The system has been used for prolonged operations involving heavy loss of blood such as neuro-surgery, removal of brain tumours and in pulmonary surgery, critical or multiple

fractures, crashed limbs, stomach wounds.

Some French medical authorities predict that the system will become standard medical practice for victims of road accidents, explosions, major fires, and air or railway catastrophes. It has even been used successfully in the care of premature infants, to help mothers through complicated deliveries and in psychiatry.

Instead of placing premature babies in incubators at constant warm temperatures and giving them oxygen, French obstetricians and paediatricians have been giving them doses of large quantities of cocktails and putting them into hibernation as long as seven days and in a few cases up to 12 days.

IN WAR AREA

Professor Maurice Lacomme, Professor of Obstetrics at the Faculty of Medicine in Paris and director of one of France's largest maternity centres, believes that this method of therapy overcomes the state of shock in which many premature babies are born.

But it is in Indo-China that the most spectacular results have been achieved.

Dr. Laborit trained units of physicians, anaesthetists and nurses to use the system in the Indo-Chinese war area, where jungles, insects, heat and difficult transport and hygienic conditions made every wound a hazard.

The system was first used there 14 months ago. Dr. Laborit has just returned after a tour of the war front to survey the results.—China Mail Special.

"Maintain Links With France," Vietnam Warned

Saigon, Oct. 12.

Vietnam leaders warned today that the nation must remain closely tied to France as the nationalists opened a two-day Government-run Congress to frame their independence demands and pick delegates for home-rule talks with France.

Meanwhile, French and Cambodian delegates at Phnom Penh reached agreement on the transfer of military forces from French to Cambodian command.

It was the last major obstacle in month-long negotiations for greater Cambodian home rule.

An official communique issued after today's plenary session said the negotiators had formulated "a proposal tending to the adoption of a new solution of pending military questions."

The accord will be submitted to the two governments for approval.

France had agreed to give Cambodia nominal command of troops in the Indo-Chinese kingdom but long delays over details of the transfer threatened to rupture the talks.

France claimed it needed operational control of certain Cambodian units on "loan" to protect communications with neighbouring Laos.

A NECESSITY

The first session of the long-awaited Nationalist Congress opened with only 79 of 211 delegates attending and the main work was put off until tomorrow.

Premier Nguyen Van Tam, who helped to organise the session after an earlier Nationalist Congress had demanded his expulsion and complete independence from France, told the delegates:

"I am convinced you will try to avoid any passions during the meeting and will support the creation of a new association with France."

Prince Bui Loc, Vietnamese High Commissioner to France, warned the Nationalists that separation from France would allow the Communists to overrun Vietnam.

"The evolution of Vietnam comes at a time when the existence of isolated nations is threatened as never before," he said.

"The safeguarding of our independence requires a system of alliance and association to save the nation from external threat. From this necessity stems the question of our association with France."—United Press.

UNIONS TO MEET IN LONDON

London, Oct. 12.

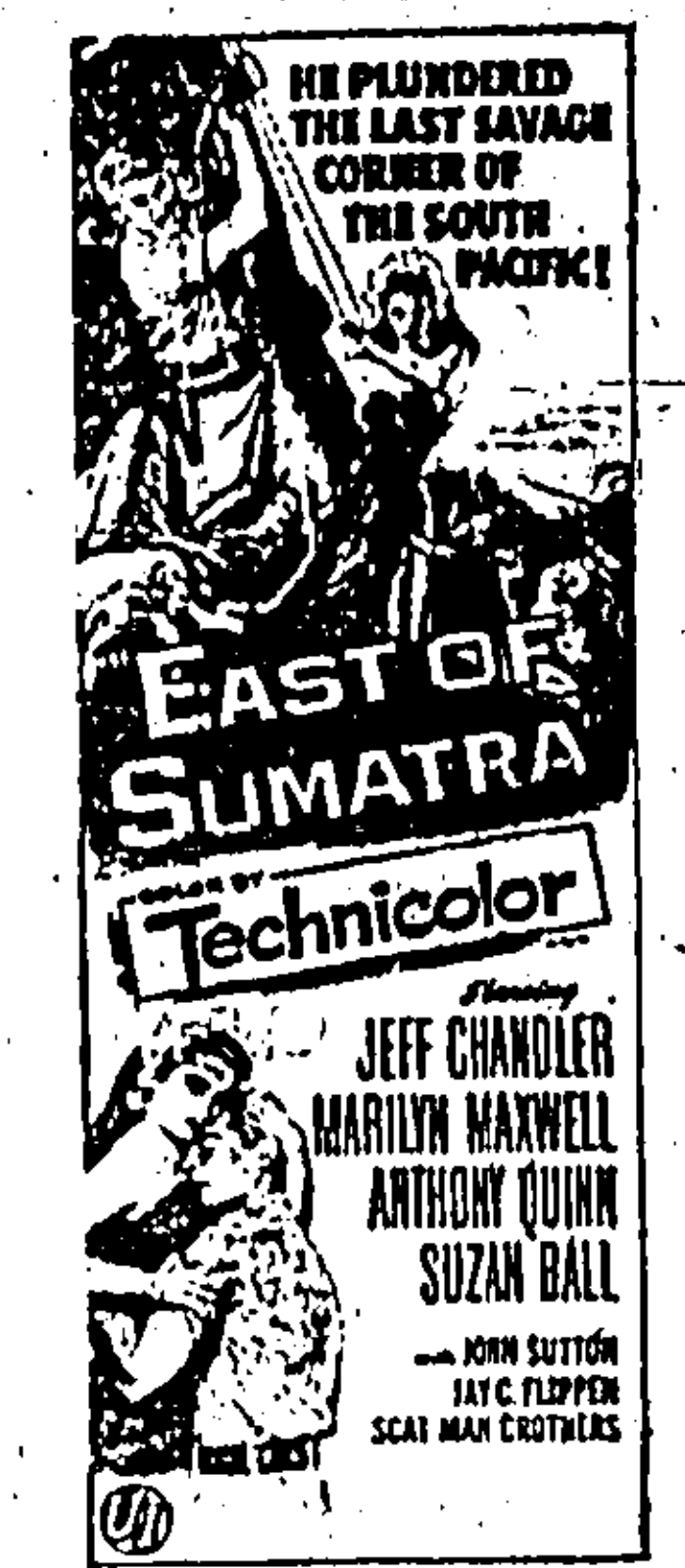
Twenty-four trade union representatives from 10 countries will open three-day discussions tomorrow on trade union approach to productivity.

The conference, arranged by the European regional organisation of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, will be opened by Sir Vincent Tewson, General Secretary of the British Trade Union.—China Mail Special.

LEE-CREATWORLD

TO-DAY

At 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



HONGKONG ESCAPE

by R.B. GOODWIN.

Numerous enquiries having been received a further supply has been ordered.

As the supply will be limited intending purchasers are asked to place their orders immediately.

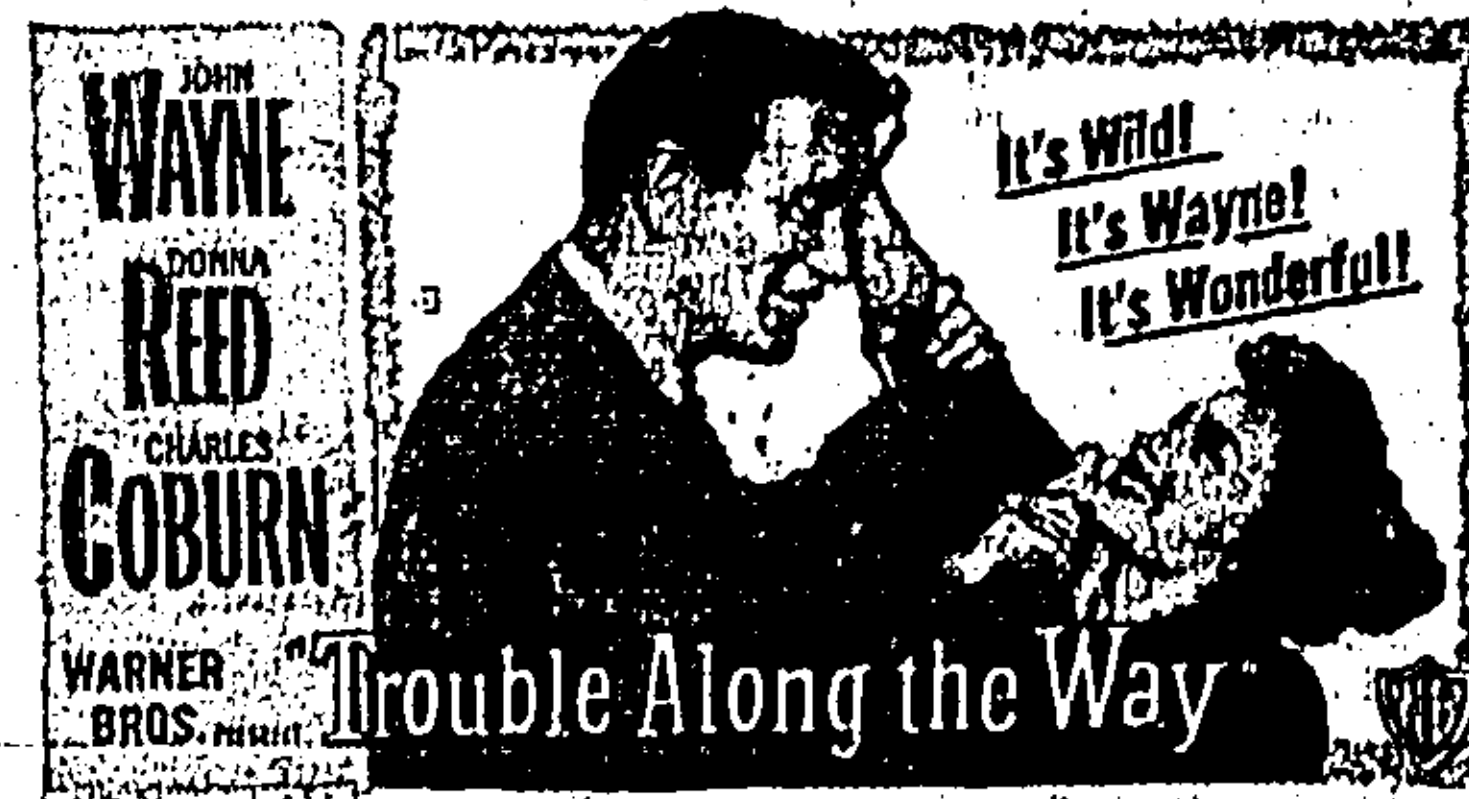
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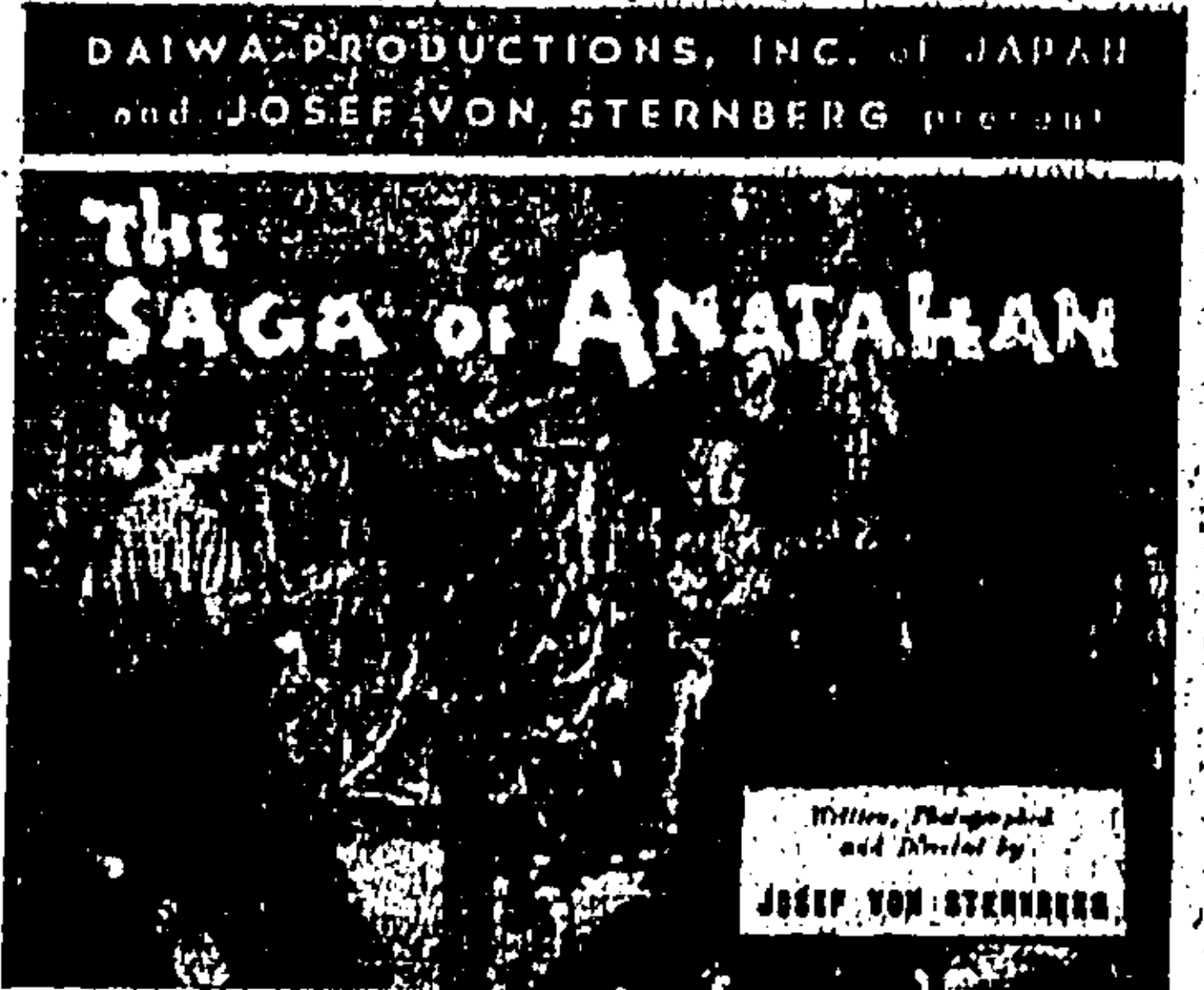


LEE-PRINCESS

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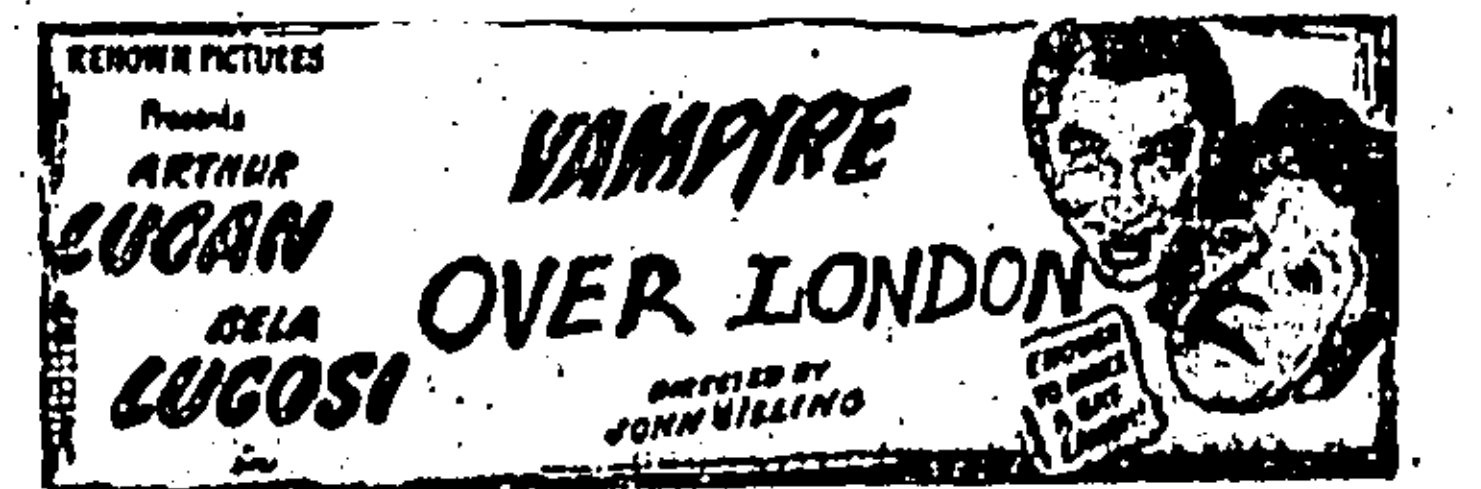


NARRATION IN ENGLISH

FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY At 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m.

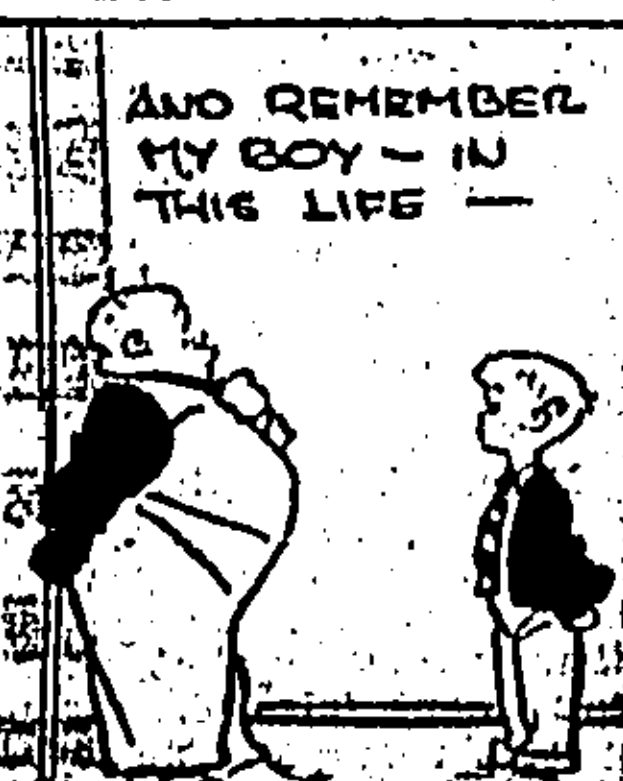


COMMENCING TO-MORROW



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DIVORCE AND THE QUEEN'S PROCTOR

THE LAPSE OF MRS PRETTY

THE proportion of cases in which the Queen's Proctor intervenes is lower today than ever before.

Not only are there far more cases than he can possibly investigate, but there is less time in which to take action since the vital period between decree nisi and decree absolute has been cut from six months to six weeks.

As to whether there are fewer cases now in which, did he know of them, the Queen Proctor might well intervene, but it is anyone's guess. But it is fair to say that the temptation to conceal the truth is, or should be, slighter now than it was a generation ago.

It is worth while looking at the histories of two ill-treated wives of yesterday to see how far we have travelled in less than a lifetime.

She left him

MRS WYKE was married in 1891. Her husband treated her as badly as a man well could, and she left him after eight years of misery.

In those days a wife needed to be able to add cruelly to her husband's misery. She was not allowed to desert, but she could claim a divorce, but he had provided her with ample grounds. She lacked only one thing to set herself free, and that was the money to pay a lawyer's bill.

She took the only course open to her in the days before the Welfare State. She went to work, and from her earnings contrived not only to support herself but to save enough to bring her case before the court. Early in 1903 she was granted her decree.

Before the decree could be made absolute something occurred that made the King's Proctor's intervention inevitable. She gave birth to a child.

The whole sad story came out. With her money saved, and her future provided for, she had fallen ill and been taken to hospital. When she was discharged, she was unfit to work. And (as she put it to the judge) "when this young gentleman asked me to go and live with him it was the only thing left for me to do, as I had expended all my earnings, which I had

Will a Divorce Court judge in the exercise of his discretion grant a decree to a woman guilty of misconduct? In the case of Mrs Wyke the answer was No. But in the case of Mrs Pretty, six years later, the answer was Yes.....

The story of this change in the divorce law is the theme of today's article in the series—

"No feeling of sympathy on behalf of an ill-treated woman can be entertained; nor can I listen to the appeal that she made to me, that if she can obtain her divorce today, another man is ready to marry her and take her child. The only question is this: Was her misconduct caused directly by her husband's cruelty and adultery?"

No, he concluded, it was not. For Mrs Wyke had lived respectably for more than two years after the separation. That she eventually fell from grace was, perhaps, "more or less pardonable," but that made no difference. She had forfeited her right to freedom. The decree was rescinded.

Melodrama

ONLY six years later, the equally sad story of Mrs Pretty had a happier ending, and this upon the very grounds that in Mrs Wyke's case the judge had felt constrained to disregard.

Her tale was one of those melodramas that sometimes occur in real life. A very young, motherless girl, of respectable family, she had been reduced by her father's ruin. When she found that a baby was on the way she had secretly married him, with the result that she found herself tied to a brutal ruffian.

In little more than a year his conduct compelled her to leave him and the worst to New Zealand, where relations of her mother lived. On her return to England next year she successfully petitioned for divorce.

But she had not gone to New Zealand alone. She had been accompanied by an acquaintance of her husband—a man grotesquely named Halfpenny. The evidence that the King's Proctor called when he later intervened in the case left no doubt in the minds of judge or jury of the terms upon which they had travelled together.

The petitioner did not make things any easier for herself by persisting in affirming that her relations with Halfpenny were innocent. She stood, therefore, in the position of one who had not only suppressed a most material fact but had also committed perjury.

One more element was present in the case to complete the melodramatic picture—a man, respectable and honourable, who appeared at the eleventh hour, pledged to marry her if she was free.

Moving Case

It was obviously a moving case, and in allowing himself to be moved the judge took what was perhaps the first step towards the principles that have since been clearly and cogently set out in modern cases—a step away from the harsh refusal to consider the consequences upon the petitioner of visiting her sins upon her.

"I think," said the judge, "that I ought to look at every conceivable aspect and circumstance of this case, not only in the present but in regard to the future; and I feel bound to save this petitioner from the absolute ruin which I am certain must ensue if I were to rescind this decree and dismiss this petition."

It was a bold extension of the court's discretion. But the basic principle remains true—the Queen's Proctor remains to enforce it where necessary—that as the same judge said: "In this court, perhaps above all other courts, honesty is the best policy."

Charles Berry

ALL RIGHT, BOYS, YOU CAN KEEP YOUR SHIRTS ON

By Phoebe Young

HOW many girls do you think, pin up pictures of one of Hollywood's male torsos over their beds?

I believe very, very few. Because, as Hollywood calls it, it is nothing more than a publicity agent's pipe dream.

It originated as the male equivalent of cheesecake (Marilyn Monroe and all that) but it has not had the same glamorous career. Nor will it. Men of course, react to cheesecake in the proper manner, and that extra inch on or off the right places can turn a girl from a nobody to a star.

But "cheesecake"! A horrible word, anyway. Girls just don't fall for it, and Hollywood is on the wrong trail in trying to persuade them to. Girls just do not care what a man looks like.

In fact, most women recoil from a really well-muscled torso. The picture of a "Mr Universe" basking in bathing trunks on the sunny sands of

California would not stir a girl to take a turnpenny bus ride to reach him.

His lack of interest in mere physique can be explained by the fact that, unlike men, most women do not think about "man" in the abstract.

They think about the man next door, about the man who works in the same office, about the man next to them on the bus, but never about just "man" as exemplified by Burt Lancaster, Tony Curtis, Lex Barker, and Errol Flynn.

They are also practical, and seldom waste time dreaming of something they know they cannot have.

PLEASE NOTE . . .

Goodness knows what looks women do admire. Some like them undernourished, pale-faced, hollow-cheeked and flat-chested—or

brunet and battered with broken noses. Some like them big and fat with bear-like arms; and others like them tall and

hearty. Still others like them smooth and sly.

But very few, Hollywood please note, very few like them tall, dark, and handsome.

They are also practical, and seldom waste time dreaming of something they know they cannot have.

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"No more electricity in my house, Troutshaw—not while nationalised electricity's making a profit." London Express Service

A beard comes into the news so some well-known owners explain—

WHY I GREW MY BEARD

By LOUISE REID

WHY do men grow beards? Senior Air-craftman Brian Brickwood, who put up a fight with the RAF authorities to retain his vigorous two-year growth the other day, says: "Put it down to laziness. I wear it because I just don't like shaving."

Other beards, other reasons—I found that out when I questioned some of the most illustrious beards in bloom.

Sir Compton Mackenzie is now in his second beard. He defines it as Elizabethan. "I grew my first in 1924 to save

myself time. But then I found I wasn't saving any time at all. In fact it was rather more trouble than looking after a large shaggy dog. Barbers in those days had lost the art of trimming beards. I was always getting it cut wrong, particularly when I was travelling."

So he got rid of it—reluctantly in some ways, because I found it gave me a certain authority as a young man. I was even able to put up my price to editors.

"I was 60 when I decided to try again. Barbers are better now. I no longer have to fear going in looking like a Vandeyck and coming out looking like a chief petty officer."

They stared

Does a beard confer personality? "No," says Sir Compton, "I can always see through the beard to the man beneath. A very young man has to be very serious to carry a beard. When you first grow one everybody says 'He's looking much older' and after that you stay the same and they say 'He doesn't seem to change at all.' This is really quite an advantage."

Sergeant Alexander Martin Sullivan, QC, now retired to his native Dublin, has sported a "not quite Vandeyck" for more than 30 years. He had the best of reasons for growing it. "Shaving always irritated my throat. In 1919 I had tonsillitis and I decided to grow a beard to see if it would give me any protection. I found it did, and I've never touched a razor since."

"The odd thing was that in those days I had a mop of flaxen hair. I was startled to find myself growing a jet black beard. Other people were startled, too, from the way they stared."

Sergeant Sullivan at 81 still has a mop of hair, but now both hair and beard are silvery grey. They do say in Dublin that he is really rather vain about his beard. He has it trimmed every fortnight.

Mr Geoffrey Cunliffe, deputy chairman and managing director of the £28 million British Aluminium Company, describes his pirate's growth as "just hair, you know, no feathers. And just hair colour, not petunia or anything of that sort. I always knew I would never shave and I never have. And now I never can because my wife wouldn't know me if I did. And she wouldn't like that." Mr Cunliffe clips his own beard every Sunday morning and broods on the folly of men who shave.

Professor Thomas Bodkin, art expert, whose waggling Shavian beard, twinkling eyes and Irish brogue have recently been delighting the least artistic of television audiences: "I started growing a beard 35 years ago just to save the trouble of shaving. I had to wait my opportunity. It came when I was in hospital for a few days. I went in clean shaven and came out with quite a respectable roddish fringe. The worst stage was over." Professor Bodkin's beard is now snow white. He calls it a "pan handle piece."

Author Benn Levy is another who has an inbred hostility to shaving but he persevered with his razor until the beginning of the war. Then he went down with jaundice and was in hospital for a fortnight and couldn't shave. The beard thus started and he has written at least one play in the time saved in the bathroom. Mr Levy insists that it is not a question of vanity. "I don't think I look any better with a beard. But then I don't look much without a beard either."

Mr Gibbings' beard, at first a rich, deep chestnut, has now a venerable silver quality. "He runs up the sides of his face with the scissors every few days."

He offers this advice to beginners: "Don't just stop shaving altogether. If you do, you look like a scrubbing brush. Start with a small patch on the chin and gradually cut down the area of shaving, so that the beard extends gradually. This makes for a better shape and a richer quality of growth."

James Robertson, Justice (Henry VIII in the Sword and the Rose) has worn his fierce red beard since 1930. "If the Lord God Almighty decreed that we should grow hair on



BRIAN BRICKWOOD OF THE RAF "Just put it down to laziness."

our faces, who am I to dispute it? It is a normal biological function of the human male to grow hair on his face, and I am a normal male. Finally, I like a beard. So let's have another dozen oysters."

In addition to beards and oysters, Mr Gibbings likes Madeira, wine, snuff, old Rolls-Royce cars (he has three) and Radical politics. And what you like you like.

Robert Gibbings, author and traveller, says, "Women are so marvellous nowadays. They can do anything a man can do except grow a beard. It is practically the only way in which we can show our superiority."

"Another reason I had a shaggy beard was through my throat in the Dardanelles during the first World War. As the years went on I had less and less wish for a razor to take the same course. I was at sea a good deal, and shaving in a heavy sea with my old cut-throat razor could be very dangerous. So you see, I feel safe, I feel just that much superior to the ladies. If my collar is dirty nobody can see it, and I save myself a lot of time and trouble."

There are disadvantages, of course. In the Cook Islands I was taken for a missionary and narrowly escaped being put in the pulpit one Sunday morning. In Tibet the natives took one look at my beard and never having seen anything like it before, took me for a spirit. I weighed 20 stone at the time."

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Is it G.I.B. next?

Franco keeps up the pressure

RENE MacCOLL was sent to Madrid after Spain and America signed a pact on bases. His assignment: to measure the effects on Britain's interests.

Madrid. Two long shadows lie athwart the patch of sunshine represented by the Spanish-American agreement on bases. They are caused by Gibraltar and by Tito.

Gibraltar is the more ominous. Franco never lets his people forget the indignity of British occupation of The Rock.

Only a few weeks back he made an inflammatory speech urging that Gibraltar be returned to Spain. The sight of the Union Jack fluttering on the southern corner of the Iberian peninsula is a constant challenge to Spanish nationalists.

Double Talk

But in the middle of this "no foreign flag on Spanish territory" campaign has come the bases deal with the U.S.A. And at once all Franco's arguments about Gibraltar are in danger of being undermined.

For how can Franco continue to resent Britain in Gibraltar if, by his own free will, he sets up half a dozen new American bases on Spanish soil?

This is part of the explanation for all the double talk that has been going on in Washington and here in Madrid about just what has been agreed.

The truth, I have found, is that the extremely touchy question of what rights the Americans will have in their new bases has still to be worked out.

Spain wants—her flag to fly over the bases. She wants Spanish C.O.s to run them. She looks askance at the idea of American soldiers being tried for misdemeanours by American, not Spanish, courts. And she takes a dim view of American M.P.s patrolling in Spanish towns.

The Americans are not at all eager to make concessions on these points. They expect the Spanish deal to follow the pattern set for U.S. bases in other European countries.

A Tough Nut

But Spain is a special case—and a very tough nut to crack. And the status of Gibraltar is a perfect place to start when the Americans are trying to get a string of little Gibraltar-like bases in the Straits and the Azores.

This is certain: the United States will have need of every last inch of diplomacy, every possible piece of tact when the time comes for her 10,000 men to take over the bases.

As for Spain, put it to me: far from the Americans teaching us to jiggerbug, I think they may return to the U.S. able to play the castanets!

And then Tito.

(America wants an automatic right to use the Spanish bases if any other European allies are attacked. But Spain turns a black face towards Communist anti-Catholic Yugoslavia.

If Tito is attacked, what then? Would Spain let America use her bases for supporting the Red hordes? That is something else that has got to be worked out.

In A Year?

The location of the bases is not stated, although Americans here make no secret in conversation of having their eye on airports near Madrid, Barcelona and Seville, and naval bases at Cartagena and Cadiz.

But when will things start to roll? When will the American technicians and experts—for all of whom America desires full diplomatic status—begin their considerable task?

At the Spanish Foreign Office, officials shrug and tell their eyes. "Perhaps in a year," they say, without enthusiasm.

But the newspapers gleefully hail the announcement that President Eisenhower is to stump up even more money for Spain.

When I arrived at Madrid airport I had to wait until all the Americans had been cleared before I could collect my passport. "First fruits of the pact," somebody said. "Americans first now."

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WIEN OST-BANNOF

"Curiously enough, no sooner had I seen Mrs. Maclean off than whom should I see arriving but Beria!"

The "boys" above with their shirts off are, from the top, Lancaster, Tony Curtis, Lex Barker, and Errol Flynn.

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	Liverpool & Glasgow	24th Oct.
	Liverpool & Glasgow	5th Nov.
	Liverpool & Glasgow	13th Nov.
	Liverpool & Glasgow	14th Nov.

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	Leaves	Arrives
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G. "ATREUS"	Rotterdam	17th Oct.
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Burma-Japan Talks On Reparations Open In Rangoon

Rangoon, Oct. 12. The Burmese and Japanese Foreign Ministers met here today for their first formal meeting to discuss reparations.

A communique issued after a 90-minute talk between Mr Okazaki and Mr Sao Khun Hkio, the Burmese Foreign Minister, said the talks were frank and friendly and that the reparations question had been studied with a view to an early settlement.

Entirely New Approach To Problem

Liverpool, Oct. 12. The Home Secretary, Sir David Maxwell Fyfe, said today that Sir Winston Churchill in his moves for world peace had suggested something that the West had hitherto ignored—namely that the Soviet Union might be afraid of attack.

He had dealt with this facet of the world problem by offering security both to Russia and to Germany by means of something in the nature of a wider "Locarno Pact," the Minister told a political lunch.

"This conception of Sir Winston's has been taken up by leading statesmen in France, Germany and the United States. Mr Eden has supported and emphasised high four-Power talks as one of the methods of achieving our prime objective, namely easing the tension of the world."—Reuter.

German Consul In Sarawak

Kuching, Oct. 12. Herr Hans Grunow, West German Consul-General in Sarawak, with his family arrived in Kuching today on his first official visit. The party leaves on Wednesday for Sibu and Brunei.—Reuter.

CHINA MAIL

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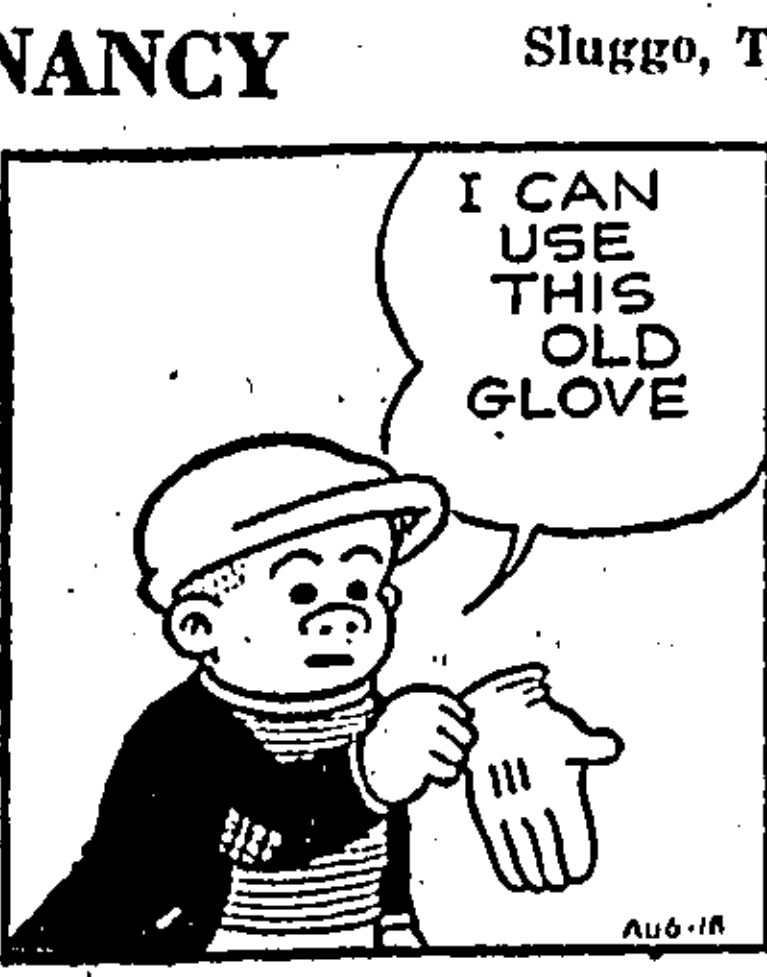
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Apathy In Thailand Towards Politics May Be A Danger

Manchester, Oct. 12.

The Manchester Guardian said today that the apathy of 90 per cent of the people of Thailand towards all politics might be a grave source of weakness if they were called on to resist Communist aggression.

A special correspondent in Thailand, discussing the chances of Communist-led forces added that the arrest of about 200 alleged Communists and sympathisers, mostly in Bangkok, last year might seem also to suggest that a well-organised column exists.

This could at least confuse the population and weaken the will to resist should invasion occur. "Various measures have been taken to reinforce the security of Thailand's eastern provinces including the wholesale removal of people, refugees and others who have come across the border at various times and among whom there are certainly some Communist sympathisers," the correspondent pointed out.

"The inhabitants of North-Eastern and Eastern Thailand have close ties of kinship with their neighbours in Indo-China and in South China, where a Thai autonomous province was established last year.

"Open invasion of Thailand with the probable consequence of United Nations armed intervention would hardly be of any benefit to the Vietnamese leaders at the present stage of their operations.

"But one cannot ignore the possibility that they might consider using this kinship of the Thai peoples in the border areas as the basis for setting up some sort of Democratic Thai Republic from which to infiltrate into Thailand and to appeal to the rest of the country to join them."

DOING VERY WELL

Returning to his theme of political apathy, the Manchester Guardian correspondent pointed out that this also gave the present Government its strength.

"A large part of the middle class now retains little respect for the Government and no longer believes that a change

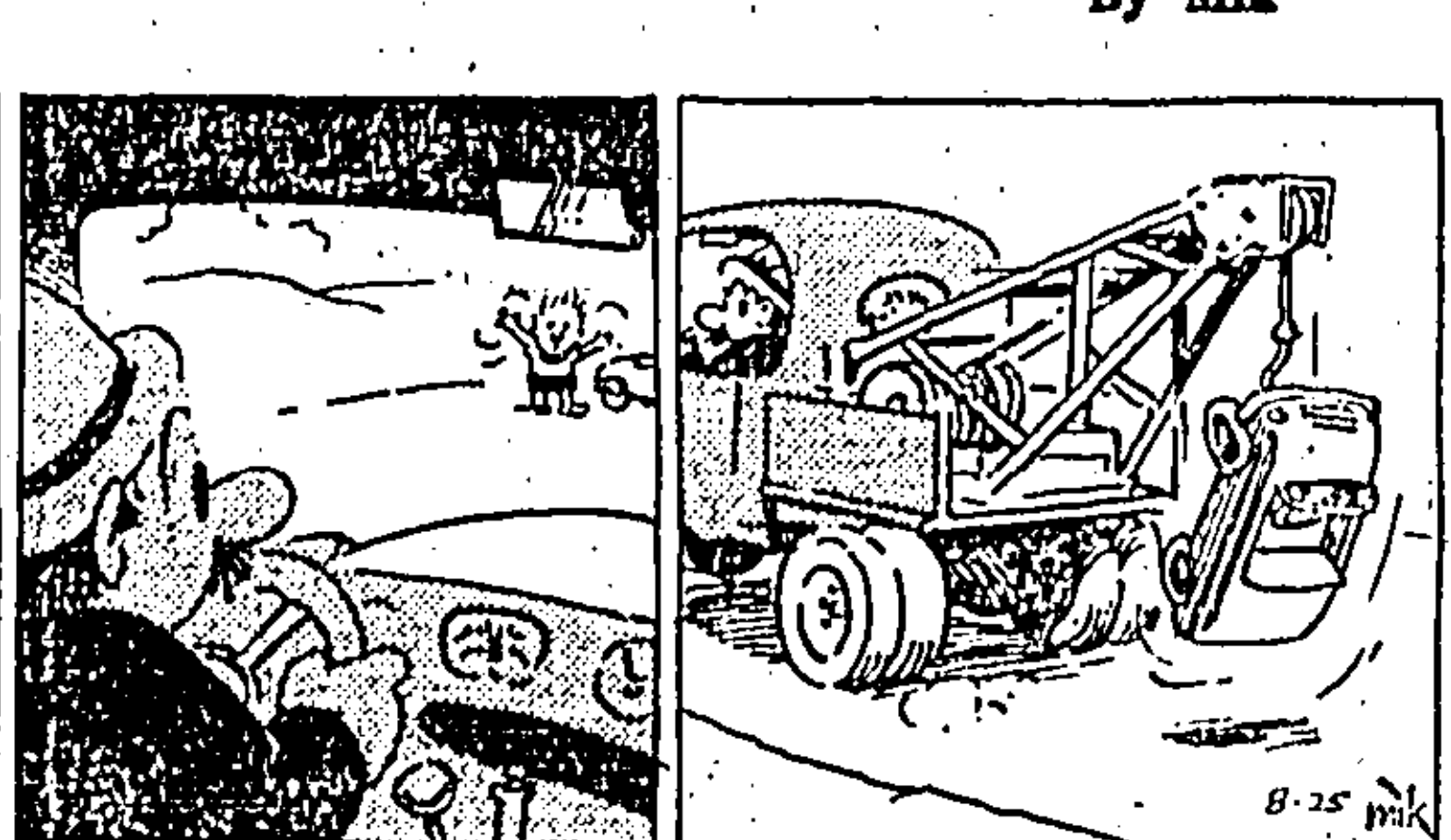
For The Soviet

Flushing, Oct. 12. The 6,500-ton motor vessel Ob, built for the Soviet Union under the 1948 Dutch-Soviet trade agreement, was launched here over the week-end by Mrs R. F. Kirsanova, wife of the Soviet Ambassador to Holland.

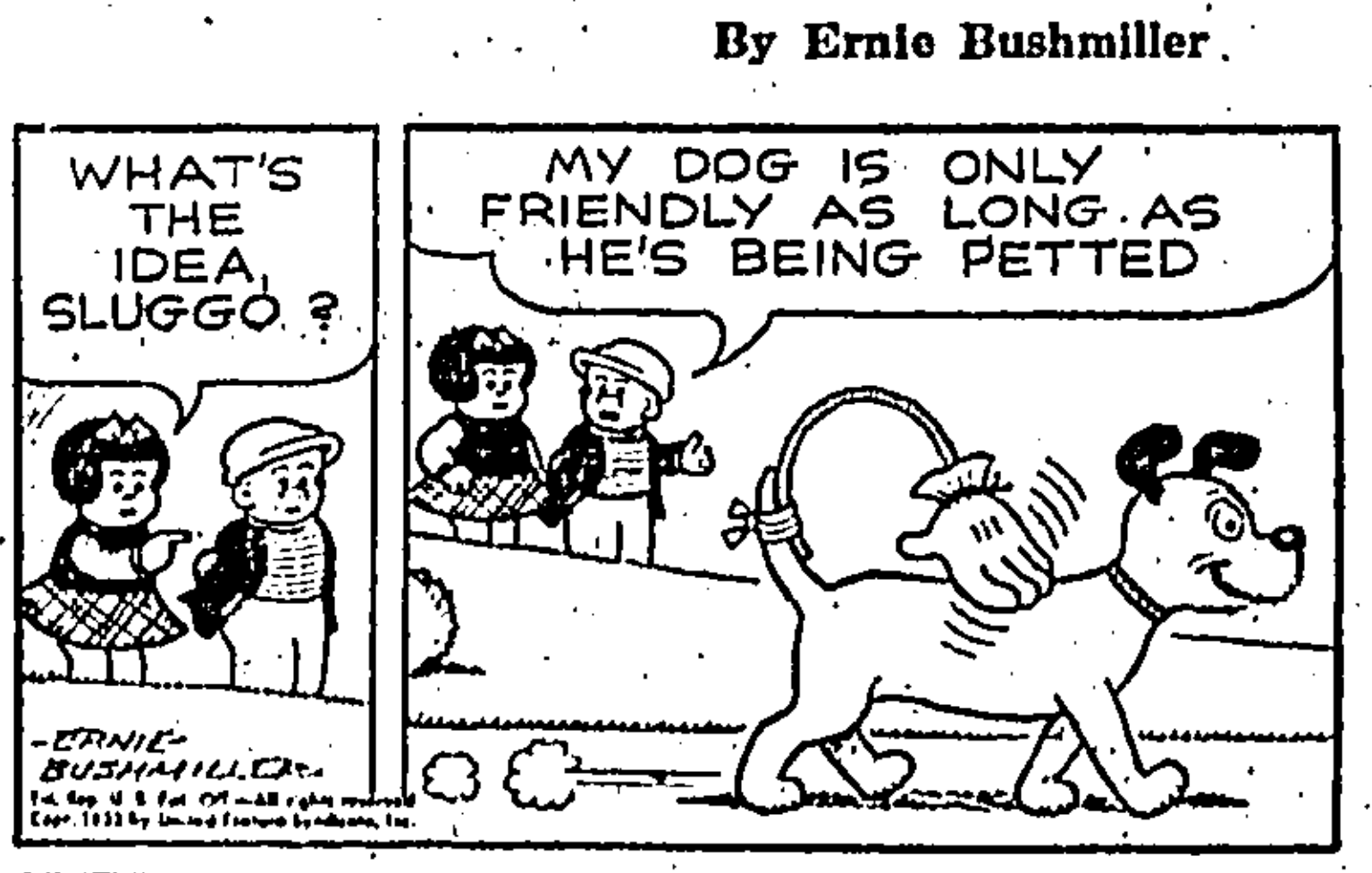
The ship is the second of three being built under the 1948 agreement.—Reuter.



By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



By Ernie Bushmiller



By Frank Robbins



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Homewards	Leaves Hongkong	Due London
"CORFU"	22nd October	1st November
"CHUSAN"	4th November	1st December
"CANTON"	20th November	21st December
"CANTON"	17th December	17th January

Accepting cargo for Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Port Said & London

FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards	Leaves	For
"SUMMIT"	15th October	Japan
Homewards	Sails	For
"SINGAPORE"	20th October	Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Genoa, Marseilles, London, Antwerp, Rotterdam & Hamburg

With liberty to call at Belawan before or after Straits Ports and at Bombay if indentment offers.

Tanks available for carriage of Oil in Bulk. Space for refrigerated cargo. Limited Passenger accommodation.

BRITISH INDIA S.N. CO., LTD.

"WARORA"

In Port	From Japan
Sails 14th Oct.	from Singapore, Hongkong, Calcutta & Ceylon

"SIRDIANA"

Due	From Japan
17th Oct.	from Singapore, Hongkong, Calcutta & Ceylon
19th Oct.	from Singapore, Penang, Hongkong & Calcutta

P. & O.B. I. JOINT SERVICE

"OBRA"

Due	From Japan
17th Oct.	from Singapore, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Kuwait, Khurramshahr & Basra
18th Oct.	from P. Gulf, Karachi, Bombay, Colombo & S'pore for Japan

"ORDIA"

Due	From Japan
22nd Oct.	from P. Gulf, Karachi, Bombay, Colombo & S'pore for Japan

EASTERN & AUSTRALIAN S.S. CO., LTD.

"EASTERN"

Due	From Japan
8th Nov.	from Australia for Japan
10th Nov.	from Japan for Australia
14th Nov.	from Japan for Australia

"NANKIN"

Due	From Japan
14th Nov.	from Australia for Japan
18th Nov.	from Japan for Australia
22nd Nov.	from Japan for Australia

All vessels have liberty to call at any ports on or off the route & the route & sailing are subject to change or amendment with or without notice.

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MACKINNON, MACKENZIE & CO.

OF HONG KONG LTD.

Telephone Nos. 27721-4.

STUDYING TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

Unique Course Being Held In London

London, Oct. 12.

A party of 22 road safety experts from 15 countries, including Ceylon and Malaya, met in London today to begin a fortnight's study of Britain's traffic problems.

Members of the course, the first of its kind to be organised here, will watch at first-hand the operating of London's "zebra" crossings for pedestrians on busy roads, which have cut casualties by 10 per cent, and the city's street lighting systems.

They will also study a report on the "courtesy police" system for travellers now introduced in the Lancashire area.

They will visit the London Road Research Laboratory, police and bus drivers' training schools and see accident "black" spots.

A senior police official will tell them about London's particular problems.

Demonstrations will be staged by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

The delegates, who were welcomed today by Mr A. T. Lennox Boyd, Minister of Transport, will also travel to other parts of the country, including Newmarket, where they will see traffic control arrangements for big race meetings.

Countries represented are: Belgium, Ceylon, Finland, Germany, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Malaya, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Switzerland, Tanganyika, Trinidad, and Turkey.—Reuter.

...this situation calls for a San Miguel

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES

FAST PASSENGER/FREIGHT SERVICE

From Marseilles to Hong Kong, Shanghai, Canton, Peking, Tientsin, Hankow, and other ports in the Far East.

From Marseilles to London, Antwerp, Rotterdam, and other ports in Western Europe.

FREIGHT SERVICE

From Europe to Marseilles, and from Marseilles to other ports in the Far East.

From Marseilles to London, Antwerp, Rotterdam, and other ports in Western Europe.

EVERETT LINES

EVERETT ORIENT LINE

Fast regular freight—refrigerator—passenger service to Korea, Japan, Philippines, Indo-China, Siam, Malaya, Rangoon, Calcutta and Ceylon.

"BRADEVERETT"

Arrives Oct. 19 from Manila, Penang, Sals Oct. 20 from Singapore, Rangoon, Calcutta.

"REBEVERETT"

Arrives Oct. 31 from Singapore, Sals Nov. 1 for Kobe & Yokohama.

EVERETT STAR LINE

Fast regular freight—refrigerator—passenger service to Korea, Japan, Philippines, Indo-China, Siam, Malaya, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi and Persian Gulf Ports.

"STAR BETELGEUSE"

Arrives Oct. 19 from Japan, Sals Oct. 20 from Singapore, Port Swettenham, Penang, Malacca, Colombo, Ceylon, Bombay, Karachi, Basrah, Khorramshahr & Bahrain.

"LAO"

Arrives Oct. 22 from Singapore, Sals Oct. 23 for Pusan, Kobe & Yokohama.

EVERETT STEAMSHIP CORPORATION S/A

(Incorporated in the Republic of Panama)

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Chinese Department: Telephone 28293.

Further Relaxation Of UK Restrictions On Trade Expected

FULFILMENT OF BRITISH PLEDGE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

London, Oct. 12. Further relaxation of the United Kingdom restrictions on trade with Western Europe, together with an increase in the personal allowance for foreign travel, is expected to be announced before the end of this month.

There are good reasons why such a move is considered desirable, and indeed, almost inevitable.

In the first place, the United Kingdom, like all members of the Organisation of European Economic Co-operation, is pledged to remove the restrictions on at least three-quarters of its trade with Western Europe.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET

(From Our Correspondent)

Business done on the Stock Exchange this morning amounted to \$1,834,600. Noon quotations and the morning's transactions:

SHARES BUYERS SELLERS SALES			
BANKS	102		
INSURANCE	102		
INDUSTRIALS	102		
RAILWAYS	102		
UTILITIES	102		
GOVERNMENT	102		
FOREIGN	102		
REAL ESTATE	102		
OTHER	102		

Cotton Industry Conference

Harrogate, Oct. 12. About 1,000 delegates from all sections of the British cotton industry will begin a three-day conference here on Friday with the aim of increasing the industry's efficiency.

The conference, arranged each year by the British Cotton Board, will bring together directors, managers, senior executives and trade union officials. Cotton is still one of Britain's main industries which turns out the finished article at the rate of about 2,000,000,000 yards a year.

Speakers will include Sir Raymond Street, Chairman of the Cotton Board, who will talk on "the state of affairs in the cotton industry today." Sir Oliver Franks, former Ambassador to Washington and now deputy chairman of one of the big banks, will speak on "The Economic Outlook."

Firms are worried about the labour situation. The industry lost over 60,000 workers at the peak of the depression last year and has only got back about 20,000.

This suggests that if the world textile industry suddenly revived, Lancashire might be at a disadvantage with other main producing countries like India and Japan.

A recent Cotton Board publication stressed that the most serious brake on any further expansion of output is the shortage of labour.

In cotton exports Britain has not maintained the improvement shown during the fourth quarter of last year, whereas Japanese exports have shown progressive increases during the three quarters to the end of June.—China Mail Special.

Galvanised Iron Plant In PI?

Manila, Oct. 12. Negotiations are reported between Japanese and Filipino businessmen for the establishment of a \$2,000,000 galvanised iron plant in Manila.

The President of the Association of Philippine Traders with Japan, who returned from a trip to Tokyo to confer with Japanese representatives of the interested concern, said that the Japanese concern was willing to extend a loan to the association in the form of machinery and a small amount of cash for the establishment of the factory.—France-Press.

HOLIDAY IN U.S.

New York, Oct. 12. All principal American markets were closed for Columbus Day, today.—United Press.

Exchange Rates

Business was done in the local unofficial exchange market this morning at the following rates:

US dollar (per 100)	100.00
British pound (per 100)	100.00
Indian rupee (per 100)	100.00
Indo-China piastre (per 100)	100.00

Will Do Everything To Avert A Slump

By SYDNEY S. CAMPBELL
Routen's Financial Editor

It can be taken for granted that the U.S. Republican Administration will strain every nerve to avert a slump. Almost every member of the U.S. Cabinet has gone on record to that effect.

For example, the Secretary of Commerce promised last week that the Administration would not hesitate to take steps to prevent "an old-fashioned depression." Treasury Secretary Humphrey puts it: "I've said before and I'll say it again that I don't think this or any other Administration if it can help it should permit an economic catastrophe in America."

It can also be taken for granted that nothing that is likely to happen to the U.S. is likely to do it to the U.S. and nothing that the U.S. is likely to do to its allies, will really play into Moscow's hands. The deepest economic mess into which the U.S. could conceivably fall would still be an almost other-worldly paradise compared with the best that the Soviet bloc has any chance of achieving in this generation.

Even for the immediate future, Russia seems to have got into a very worse economic trouble than the U.S. Indeed, one of the worst short-term factors for U.S. business arises from something that may be highly constructive in the longer run, namely that Russia seems to have got so badly over-extended that she has to go slow on all her ambitions, both external and internal; and this has given the Americans an eagerly seized opportunity to relax their defence effort and foreign aid in a way that is most gratifying for the long or even the medium term but necessitates some awkward business adjustments in the short run.

Whatever the headlessness with which the U.S. may treat friendly countries in both its import and export policies, it is nothing to the way in which Russia treats its satellites. In the eyes of the U.S. policy, of whom there are many, both the right and left wings, have never suggested that the U.S. system is an exploitation system, whereas the Soviet system can hardly be regarded as anything else.

Yet these constructive fundamentals do not conceal some immediate awkwardness. At the moment it is almost ludicrous to see the three leading powers, the U.S., Russia, and Britain, all desperately striving to restore the price mechanism to their agriculture.

POLITICAL PROBLEM

Fundamentally the problem is worst for Russia, because her system is most dependent on agriculture and because her agriculture seems to have got into a desperate condition while the agriculture of her satellites is even worse than that.

Qualitatively the problem may actually be worse for Britain than for the U.S., because some sections of British agriculture have grown accustomed to their American counterparts.

But the immediate political problem may be worst for the U.S.; it is relatively easier for Russia, because inflation of farmers' incomes is politically a desperate condition while the agriculture of her satellites is even worse than that.

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Nervousness In City Leads To Big "Shake-out"

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

London, Oct. 12.

The London Stock Exchange seemed well set to continue last week's all-round advance when investors poured in on Monday to give the markets their busiest day for two and a half years. But this was not to be.

The big shake-out, which began on Wednesday, has been attributed partly to nervousness about the situation in British Guiana and partly to the fall on Wall Street.

But it seems to have been just as much due to a bout of profit-taking by investors who considered the rise in prices since the lowering of the bank rate on Sept. 10 had gone far enough.

Effect of this can be seen in the Financial Times' stock price indices. The industrial ordinary index, after rising five points since the bank rate adjustment, slipped back a full point.

The fall was less pronounced in the gilt-edged section and the Government securities index fell only .10 to a little under 101. This still leaves it 1 1/2 points above the level on Sept. 16.

Opportunities for profit-taking were naturally best among the more speculative shares.

In the stores section, House of Fraser, which had previously gained 8-10 to 109 1/2, rose to 107 1/2 on Wednesday. And

of cluder trucks for motor-cycle racing which broke out on the countryside. Back in 1920 it was gold shares.

Today there is a speculative passion for buying shares of department stores and chain stores, which, according to easily circulated rumours, are going to be bought up at handsome prices by some mysterious "financial group."

In Stock Exchange history about to repeat itself? A writer in the Investors' Chronicle confesses that this special boomlet in "take-over" shares makes him nervous.

MIXED WEEK

The Financial Times' index of department stores and chain stores has risen this year from 91 to 133—up 46 per cent compared with a rise of 10 per cent in the leading high-grade industrials. Lots of people in the City are talking about it but the buying of high-grade industrials persists. It comes from substantial sources and thus far shows little signs of tapering off.

However, the week was a mixed one. Profit-taking lowered Woolworths two shillings. Roll-Royce fell 2/6d., Ford Motors 1/6d., Dunlops a shilling.

But there were plenty of rises such as Imperial Tobacco, up 1/3d., Lanchester Cotton, up one shilling. Unilever, up ninepence and Courtaulds, up 7 1/2 pence; although there were no big falls.

German bonds were particularly affected—the potato issues losing as much as 3 1/2 points. Japanese bonds dropped a point and more.—France-Press.

Great Universal Stores, which had earlier put on 5 1/2d., slipped back from 62 7/8d to 57 1/4d.

Since then the shares have moved in opposite directions, the former to 58 1/2 and the latter to 56 1/2d.

NEW ISSUE

In the all-important engineering section, however, changes from last week's price levels have been very small.

Biggest talking point in this market has been the enormous success of the new debenture issue by the boiler-makers, Babcock and Wilcox. Subscriptions for this issue of 24 million of 4 1/2 per cent stock, 1950, at a price of 97 1/2, totalled no less than £59 million.

Three-quarters of the stock has been allocated to existing shareholders and the company's employees. Outside subscribers have been rationed to only £100 of stock.

The Treasury's new issue of three per cent Exchequer stock, 1952-53, was also highly successful. Investors took up £341 million of this stock, a figure far in excess of the most optimistic expectations.

JAPANESE SLUMP

But, although this helped sentiment in the gilt-edged market, the funds lacked interest.

Demand has been mainly for the new stock which opened on Wednesday around its issue price of 99 1/2 and then suddenly jumped to 99 3/4 on Thursday.

In the foreign bond market Japanese issues have fallen sharply on further talk of Japan's sterling shortage, now reaching crisis proportions.

Feature of the commodity share markets was the decline of rubber shares following the drop in the commodity price to its lowest level since April, 1950, and the announcement that United States manufacturers cannot cancel forward contracts for synthetic rubber.

"WEST END STUFF"

London, Oct. 12. British experience during the 20th Century has been (1) that all "bull markets" eventually come to an end and (2) just before they do so, the public rushes in after some new and very special type of share.

This is known as the "floor of the stock exchange" or "West End Stuff" meaning that something has swept the middle class and the lower middle class without favourably improving the brokers.

In 1946-47 it was the shares of dog racing companies and holiday camps. In 1950-51 it was dirt track shares—a rash

The Rubber Markets

London, Oct. 12. The rubber market was active with No. 1 RSS spot quoted at 17 5/16 pence per lb.

Spot No. 1, 17 5/16; No. 2, 17 1/8; No. 3, 17 1/4; No. 4, 17 1/8; No. 5, 17 1/4; No. 6, 17 1/8; No. 7, 17 1/4; No. 8, 17 1/8; No. 9, 17 1/4; No. 10, 17 1/8; No. 11, 17 1/4; No. 12, 17 1/8; No. 13, 17 1/4; No. 14, 17 1/8; No. 15, 17 1/4; No. 16, 17 1/8; No. 17, 17 1/4; No. 18, 17 1/8; No. 19, 17 1/4; No. 20, 17 1/8; No. 21, 17 1/4; No. 22, 17 1/8; No. 23, 17 1/4; No. 24, 17 1/8; No. 25, 17 1/4; No. 26, 17 1/8; No. 27, 17 1/4; No. 28, 17 1/8; No. 29, 17 1/4; No. 30, 17 1/8; No. 31, 17 1/4; No. 32, 17 1/8; No. 33, 17 1/4; No. 34, 17 1/8; No. 35, 17 1/4; No. 36, 17 1/8; No. 37, 17 1/4; No. 38, 17 1/8; No. 39, 17 1/4; No. 40, 17 1/8; No. 41, 17 1/4; No. 42, 17 1/8; No. 43, 17 1/4; No. 44, 17 1/8; No. 45, 17 1/4; No. 46, 17 1/8; No. 47, 17 1/4; No. 48, 17 1/8; No. 49, 17 1/4; No. 50, 17 1/8; No. 51, 17 1/4; No. 52, 17 1/8; No. 53, 17 1/4; No. 54, 17 1/8; No. 55, 17 1/4; No. 56, 17 1/8; No. 57, 17 1/4; No. 58, 17 1/8; No. 59, 17 1/4; No. 60, 17 1/8; No. 61, 17 1/4; No. 62, 17 1/8; No. 63, 17 1/4; 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